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Nature of work done by political prisoners.

*193 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to furnish information as to the nature and kinds of work to which the political prisoners are being put in the jails?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 107 and to the rules in Chapter XXIV and rules 747-C (7) and 747-D (5) in Chapter XLV-A of the Madras Jail Manual.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member if he will kindly tell me and the House what the nature of the work that is given to the political prisoners is?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The ordinary work, in the case of the A and B class prisoners, to which they are generally accustomed, and in the case of the C class prisoners, the ordinary work which is allotted to that class."

Supply of butter-milk and raw rice to prisoners.

*194-A Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the result of the experiment carried on by the Government of supplying butter-milk and raw rice to certain prisoners in their jails;

(b) whether the experiment was a success according to the Government; and

(c) when it is going to be introduced in other jails?

A.—(a) to (c) No experiment has been tried as regards the supply of raw rice to C class prisoners. The Government are awaiting a report from the Inspector-General of Prisons on the question of the supply of raw rice and butter-milk to such of the C class prisoners as are accustomed to them without increasing the cost of diet generally.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Apart from the answer given on this paper, may I beg the hon. the Law Member to look at it from the humane point of view and see that butter-milk is at once introduced, whatever may be the cost thereby incurred, as the sickness that comes on very often due to the non-supply of butter-milk is likely to be more costly to the Government than the supply of butter-milk itself?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am looking at the question from the humane point of view. The Government have, as stated in the answer, called for a report from the Inspector-General of Prisons."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Is the hon. the Law Member aware that, as a matter of fact, in the Central Jail at Bellary when Mr. C. Rajagopalachari was there, on a representation made by some of us then, raw rice was substituted in the place of boiled rice and that the experiment was found to be not only economical, but also more healthy to the prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not aware of that, but I will take the information given by my friend as correct, and I am really glad that it was so."

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Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I know what the cost would come to, if butter-milk was given to the prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Notice."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know if the question of the cost of supply of butter-milk has been included in the report that has been called for from the Inspector-General ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" That point and other points connected with the supply of butter-milk and raw rice will be considered by the Inspector-General who has been asked to report."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know if the Government do not insist upon the cost of supplying butter-milk and raw rice being the same as the cost of supplying boiled rice ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" It all depends upon the information which will be contained in the report of the Inspector-General."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" What is the information that the Government want from the Inspector-General ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Every kind of information relating to this question."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know what the information is that the Government have called for from the Inspector-General of Prisons ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krisnan Nayar :—" The Government have called for information as to how in point of cost it will work, how in respect of the health of the prisoners, it will work, etc."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" But the answer here does not say so. It says : 'on the question of the supply of raw rice and butter-milk to such of the C class prisoners as are accustomed to them without increasing the cost of diet generally '. It is not what the hon. the Law Member says now."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Yes, that is the point on which a report has been called for from the Inspector-General."

Mr. Yakub Hasan :—" Will the hon. the Law Member kindly see that mere cost alone does not stand in the way of giving butter-milk to the prisoners ; especially having regard to the fact that in so many other directions we are wasting money, why can we not spend some more money on these prisoners ? I would therefore like to know whether the hon. Member will see that cost alone does not stand in the way of the supply of butter-milk and raw rice."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I shall consider the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Sir."

Supply of salt to ' C ' class prisoners.

* 194-B *Q.*—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of giving more salt to ' C ' class prisoners ; and

(*b*) if so, with what result ?